

Before reading 'Wood Notes Wild' we requested a pianist to play all the bird songs given in the first part of the book, while without looking at the page we attempted to identify each song as it was played. There are here (pp. 1-102) the songs of forty-one species. With thirty-nine of these we are perfectly familiar. The result was as follows:—

Thirty-three conveyed absolutely no impression, we could not even guess at their identity; while, of the remaining eight, five were named correctly. The species whose songs were recognized were Chickadee, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Wood Pewee, and Quail. Making due allowance for the difference in tone between a piano and a bird's voice, this result, from the ornithologist's standpoint of identification, is disappointing and forces the conclusion that each bird must be the interpreter of its own song. But if in attempting the impossible Mr. Cheney has shared the common fate, as a lover of nature's voices he has written some charming sketches of bird life, and we cannot but regret that so sympathetic a writer should have left us so brief a record of his observations in the woods and fields.—F. M. C.

Oustalet on the Birds of Patagonia.*—The present volume gives a very full account of what is known of the birds of Antarctic America, including southern Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, the Falkland Islands, and the various smaller islands of the neighboring Antarctic Seas. The work is based primarily on the rich collections formed by Dr. Hyades, Dr. Hahn, and M. Sanvinet, of the French Scientific Mission to Cape Horn, but includes also the collections made by M. Lebrun and the officers of the 'Vôlage,' in southern Patagonia. Instead of limiting the work to these collections, however, Dr. Oustalet has utilized the specimens collected by the various earlier French expeditions to this general region. The species of which specimens were actually in hand from the region in question number about 100, but 104 others are introduced as of actual or probable occurrence, on the basis of the literature of the subject. The species of the first catalogue (pp. 4-248) are treated at considerable length, the literature of the subject being fully cited, and much space given to the subject of their geographical distribution, and occasionally to questions of relationship and nomenclature. The annotations also include notes made by the collectors on the color of the eyes, beak, feet, etc., and the contents of the stomach. The volume closes with a synoptic table of the geographical distribution of "un total de 204 espèces pour les oiseaux qui ont été rapportés par la Mission du cap Horn ou qui ont été recueillis par d'autres expéditions dans la Patagonie proprement dite, au sud du Rio Negro, sur la Terre de Feu, la Terre des Etats, les îles avoisinantes, ou dans l'archipel des Malouines." The work is accompanied by six beautiful colored plates of (mostly) previously unfigured species.—J. A. A.

*Mission scientifique du Cap Horn, 1882-1883. Tome VI. Zoologie. Oiseaux, par E. Oustalet. 4to. pp. 341, pll. 6. Paris, 1891.